

U.S. sees better situation in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, reacting to an Amnesty International report on widespread torture in Kuwait, said the human rights situation in the emirate had improved drastically in recent weeks. A State Department statement issued late on Thursday said: "The situation by most accounts in Kuwait is very much improved over what existed some weeks ago." Amnesty International said in a report issued on Thursday that hundreds of people had been arbitrarily arrested and scores tortured brutally or executed since the restoration of the Kuwaiti government in late February. "These violations are still continuing and appear to be largely unchecked," said the London-based human rights organisation (see page 2). The State Department said Kuwait's crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah, had personally looked into many allegations of human rights abuses and had overseen many changes for the better. But the statement said Washington continued to discuss all reports of abuses with the Kuwaiti government and remained in close contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross which was monitoring the human rights situation in the emirate.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية معاصر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Volume 16 Number 4679

AMMAN SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1991, SHAWAL 6, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Arafat sends Saddam message

NICOSIA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat sent Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein a holiday message saying Baghdad would overcome its current difficulties, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Friday. Mr. Arafat, addressing President Saddam on behalf of the Palestinian people, the PLO and himself personally, said that "we hope by God's will and through the efforts of the Iraqi people that Iraq can face and overcome all its difficulties in order to rise up and go ahead on the road to prosperity," the agency reported. The telegram was sent to mark the "Eid Al Fitr."

Bomb explodes at mosque in Baalbek

BAALBEK (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded in the mosque and office of a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim faction in this centre of the Bekaa Valley Friday. Police said one person was wounded. A police spokesman said the bomb went off shortly after midnight (2200 GMT Thursday) at the entrance to the ground floor mosque of the Al Abbash group in Baalbek's Rifai residential district. The spokesman said the powerful explosion inflicted "severe damage" on the mosque and the group's first-floor office and shattered glass in 15 nearby apartments. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, the first against the tiny Sunni factions which is named after its founder-leader Sheikh Abdullah Al Habashi.

Bahraini envoy's daughter kidnapped

BOMBAY, India (R) — The five-year-old daughter of Bahrain's consul-general in Bombay has been kidnapped, police said Friday. They said Jaffer Ahmad Hubail's daughter Vedad was taken from her kindergarten school in Bombay Thursday morning by a middle-aged man who appeared to be an Arab. He showed school officials a forged note saying Mr. Hubail wanted to see her at the airport, he added. Mr. Hubail told police an anonymous telephone caller had demanded a ransom of 900,000 rupees (\$45,000). A few hours later, the envoy corrected this to 90,000 rupees (\$4,500). "Apparently, he is very dazed and does not quite remember," police officer S. Dhatt said.

Muslim-American soldier jailed

HEIDELBERG, Germany (R) — A Muslim-American soldier who said it was against his religion to fight in the Gulf war, has been jailed for one year by a court-martial, the U.S. army said Friday. A spokesman at the army's European headquarters in Heidelberg said Private William Allen had been sentenced by a jury of nine officers after he pleaded guilty to desertion and missing a military movement. Allen, 25, a devout Muslim, had clutched a copy of the Koran during the court-martial in Fuerth, near Nuremberg. He had failed to report to his first armoured division unit one day before it was deployed from its base in Germany to the Gulf region. He was arrested by German police during a raid on a house in Passau where he was hiding.

British journalist missing in Iraq

LONDON (R) — The Foreign Office expressed concern Friday over the fate of a British journalist and two companions missing in northern Iraq since earlier this month. A spokesman said freelance film cameraman Nick Della Casa, his wife Lorraine and her brother Charles Maxwell were last seen by an American journalist on April 2 near Zakhil, in the northern Kurdish area, heading for the oil city of Kirkuk. "They are unaccounted for and we are concerned about their fate," the spokesman said. "The families are concerned as Maxwell was due back in the U.K. three weeks ago."

Baker, Israeli leaders make little headway

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker failed Friday to bridge Arab and Israeli differences on a Middle East peace conference during a day of intensive talks with leaders of the Jewish state.

Both Israel and U.S. officials said the discussions with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy had dealt with details of Middle East peace but more time was needed.

"There are a number of outstanding issues that will have to be worked out and resolved if a process is to result," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said after the talks.

In a written statement, Ms. Tutwiler said Mr. Baker "went over differences in Arab and Israeli positions on a number of issues and made suggestions as to how to bridge the gap in order to

get to a conference that would launch direct bilateral negotiations."

"Understandably, the prime minister has asked for some time to consider these suggestions before getting back to the secretaries," Ms. Tutwiler said.

It was unclear when talks could resume, but Israel Radio reported Mr. Baker could be back in Israel by Tuesday and U.S. embassy officials were known to have made preparations for a return visit.

Ms. Tutwiler said only that Israel would respond to the issues raised by Mr. Baker. "When and how of course will be determined by the Israeli government," she said.

Mr. Baker, on his third Middle East tour since the Gulf war, leaves Israel Saturday for stops that will include Jordan, Egypt,

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria.

Mr. Baker spent nearly two hours with Mr. Levy, 3½ with Mr. Shamir. Unlike the positive Israeli comments that marked Mr. Baker's two previous visits, Mr. Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner was cautious.

Mr. Pazner said Mr. Baker had raised ideas he collected in talks with Arab states and in Europe over the last 10 days.

"These things require discussion, consideration and I believe it is too early to reach conclusions. It is impossible to reach conclusions now. We must speak more," Mr. Pazner said.

"It was certainly an intensive and deep meeting that was conducted in the framework of the efforts to advance the peace process," he told Israel Radio.

(Continued on page 3)

Baker's first visit to Jordan: Step on rough road to peace

Trip can produce results, depending on substance of Aqaba discussions

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

strengthen the peace effort, especially in view of other shifts that have been well received at this end," said one Jordanian official. "But until such time when the secretary of state is able to convince Israel to stop its settlement activity and agree to true Palestinian representation in the peace process and get talks going on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338, there will simply be no grounds for real optimism," the official added.

By his reference to "shifts" in the U.S. position, the official meant the new American inclination towards European participation in the proposed conference to tackle the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict and other reports that the Americans were dropping the word "region-

al" to describe the partly in favour of using the term "peace conference" for it.

"The U.S. no longer insists on calling the proposed 'peace' conference a regional conference," said a senior Western diplomat. "It will be simply known as a 'peace conference' from now on," he said.

According to Jordanian observers, this step goes some way in assuaging Arab fears and suspicions about the concept of the regional parley that the U.S. and Israel had agreed to during Mr. Baker's second visit to Israel on April.

A number of Arab leaders, including Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians will be tough when they meet Baker

By Daoud Kuttob
Special to the Jordan Times

EAST JERUSALEM — When Secretary of State James Baker enters the home of the U.S. Council General in Jerusalem Philip Wilcox for his third meeting with Palestinians he will find a different Palestinian delegation than those he met during his last two visits. The Palestinian group will be different in composition and composure.

While the delegation will still be headed by Faisal Husseini it will be smaller in size. In addition to Husseini it will include Bir Zeit University professor Hanan

Al-Sharawi and Gazan Physician Zakaria Al Agha.

The Palestinians will be more

stern in their discussion and will

press Mr. Baker for answers to

many of the questions that have

arisen since Mr. Baker's first visit to the area. They plan to spend

much of the discussion talking

about changes that are needed in the occupied territories for the

peace process to continue.

Mr. Al-Sharawi says the key

word will be "tangible re-

sults." Palestinians will want to

know what the United States

plans to do about the continuing

Israeli settlement policy, and ab-

out the political and economic

repressions in the occupied terri-

tories. They are also hoping to

hear more about the legal basis of

the self-government scheme

which Israel is proposing for the

three year transitional period.

The expected tough Palestinian

position reflects the growing an-

ger among Palestinian activists

about the way that Mr. Baker

seems to have taken his ability to

meet Palestinians in the occupied

territories for granted. It also

reflects the pessimism among

people and leaders in the occu-

pied territories and is meant to

placate some of the opposition

PLO groups who have been call-

ing for an end to the Palestinian-

Baker meetings.

Mr. Al-Sharawi, who also parti-

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis, keen to restore normality, fear loss of national sovereignty

The writer, a Jordan Times Staff Reporter, has just returned from Iraq

By Lamis Andoni

FOR THE Iraqi people, shattered by war, ostracism and internal strife, the United Nations Security Council ceasefire plan sparked a glimmer of hope for restoring normality but only at the expense of what many Iraqis view as the country's loss of sovereignty and integrity.

"This is extremely humiliating and painful. We no longer have control of our destiny," said an Iraqi literary critic who preferred anonymity.

For officials and ordinary people alike, acceptance of the ceasefire plan amounted to a political capitulation which has only rubbed salt into a sore wound inflicted by the military defeat.

"The worst part is that we do not know where the concessions

will stop, if they will," said the Iraqi official.

Iraqis seemed particularly disturbed by the fact the ceasefire plan fell short of bringing about an end to the hostilities. The practical repercussions of this shortcoming — as viewed in Baghdad — is that the United Nations, but mostly the U.S., can exploit this implied uncertainty in keeping up the pressure on the government as one means of interfering in the internal affairs of the country.

Witness the latest developments in the north where foreign military presence is being imposed on Iraqis.

The U.S. and allies waste no time in reminding Iraq that they have the upper hand. Everytime an American fighter breaks the sound barrier Iraqis feel that they are no longer

masters of their fate and con-

stantly fear that the aerial

bombardment can resume at

any moment. A spontaneous

reaction by an ordinary Iraqi is

to shout in anger or at times

simply cry in frustration.

For ordinary Iraqis the prospect of any form of renewed military hostilities is simply unbearable. Decision-makers in Baghdad appear to be aware of the mood making the government more vulnerable to external pressure. "People have had enough. We cannot push them any further," said a government official, partly reflecting fears of another violent outbreak of popular discontent.

The war and the destruction have dramatically reduced people's aspirations to mere survival. The elimination of mass destruction weapons and ballistic missiles does not constitute a major concern for ordinary Iraqis. However, Iraq

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli settlement challenged

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian man petitioned Israel's supreme court on Friday to halt a new Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, saying it is being built on his land.

The suit seeks a temporary injunction against the construction of Revava. It was set up by a half-dozen Jewish families, who moved into mobile homes in the middle of the night Monday.

Creation of the settlement 45 kilometres northwest of occupied Jerusalem came just three days before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker returned to Israel for Middle East peace talks.

Israeli peace activists said the timing was aimed at subverting the peace process. Mr. Baker has repeatedly said Jewish settlement activity hinders the possibility of land-for-peace compromise with the Palestinians.

The court challenge was not the only one aimed at the Revava settlers, who say they bought the 350 dunams of land for their settlement from a Palestinian.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz said Friday that two other Palestinian challenges have been brought against Revava.

The newspaper said residents of the nearby village of Deir Istiya complained to the Israeli military government that the road to the new settlement has been built on their land.

It said a family named Sultan planned to petition the military government next week to prove that it, too, owned part of the site.

The supreme court case was brought by the Society of St. Ives, a Jerusalem legal aid centre, on behalf of Kamal Darwish of the village of Kifl Harith.

The society sponsored last year's supreme court case that resulted in the court ordering the army to distribute gas masks to Palestinians during the Gulf war.

The petition said that 50 dunams of the land belonged to Mr. Darwish and was properly registered. It calls for a halt to construction of sewer and water

(Continued on page 4)

Aga Khan: Iraq relief plan needs urgent financing

GENEVA (Agencies)

(AP) — A senior United Nations official said Friday that an agreement signed with Baghdad authorities to help Kurdish refugees return home would remain an "empty shell" if governments withheld urgently needed funds.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who is in charge of humanitarian efforts in the Gulf, said there would need to be "very serious consultations" before any U.N. involvement in the Kurdish refugee camps planned by the American military.

He told a press conference the U.N. did not have the resources to manage such a massive operation at short notice.

The American plan for camps run by the U.S. military for Kurds near the Turkish border, by contrast, has been criticised by Iraq as interference in its internal affairs.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said the American and U.N. plans for the

(Continued on page 5)

Allies, Iraqis meet in Zakho on refugee camps

SILOPI, Turkey (Agencies)

(AP) — The U.S. general in charge of setting up Kurdish refugee camps in northern Iraq met with Iraqi military leaders on Friday to ensure the safety of the multinational relief operation.

The general said it was not clear when allied troops would be able to start constructing refugee camps inside northern Iraq.

Time is the biggest obstacle that I have. As you are aware... in an operation like this, when you have so many folks in dire straits, you just don't have the luxury to go into sequential planning and whatnot," he said.

The talks took place in a building near the Iraqi frontier post, in a green valley overlooked by rugged hillsides. Two American A-10 ground attack aircraft patrolled high overhead.

Kurds continue to stream back into Erbil

By Serene Halasa in Erbil, Iraq

KURDISH REFUGEES have started streaming back to Erbil in northern Iraq, following ten days of tranquility and stability in the area, after Iraqi forces, loyal to President Saddam Hussein, recaptured the city from rebel hands.

The city, which faced civil unrest in a failed uprising organised by Kurdish insurgents, was retaken by the elite Republican Guards on March 31.

During their voyage home sometime last week, some refugees said they had fled the area after being sold by the rebels that their lives were at stake if they were caught by the advancing Iraqi army.

"We left because rebels told us planes were going to bomb us," Khaled Faqih Hamad, a Kurdish refugee told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Hamad, the rebels had also blocked the

roads back to Iraq and prevented civilians wishing to go back from crossing. "Rebels have blocked the roads, and they won't let anyone come through," Mr. Hamad said, explaining that by doing this the rebels would claim a political victory for their cause."

Erbil, 540 kilometres from Baghdad, was one of the places that witnessed the heaviest battles between rebel and government forces. It is also the main headquarter for the central government of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurdish residents who stayed on in Erbil during the 20-day unrest said rebels vandalised, looted, destroyed and burnt government and public properties, including schools, hospitals and even the local police station.

"People who have no respect for government and public property cannot claim they want to establish a rightful government," Ali Wali, a Kur-

dish jeweller and resident of Erbil said.

Another resident, Nizar Azziz, a Kurdish teacher who was also present in Erbil during the unrest, said the rebellion contained foreign elements.

"Some of the rebels were bearded and spoke Farsi," Mr. Azziz said. "Not only did they destroy government and public properties, they also committed ugly crimes against the Kurdish residents of Erbil," he added.

Since the crackdown, government officials have already started to work on reconstructing after the unrest.

In a brief press conference with members of the foreign press present in Erbil, heads of the executive and legislative committees in Erbil, Jafar Abdul Kareem Al Barzachi and Bahaa Addio Ahmad, said that their committees had earlier convened to discuss ways of starting the reconstruction

phase.

The legislative and executive committees met this morning to discuss the situation and plans of reconstruction," Mr. Ahmad added.

The officials also said that up till now between 40,000 and 50,000 Kurdish refugees had returned, and more were expected to arrive.

Speaking on the Kurdish position in Iraq, the officials said that the Kurds who had fled were safe to return, especially after the government had extended the amnesty period to another week to allow their safe return home. Excluded from the amnesty, Mr. Ahmad said, were those who committed acts of rape, theft, and murder.

The officials also spoke of capturing prisoners of war during the unrest.

"With regard to the POWs, those who came from outside Iraq will be treated like regular POWs, but those who are from

inside Iraq will be sentenced individually, based on the nature of their crime, in accordance with Iraqi martial law," Mr. Ahmad added.

Red Crescent aid arrives

In another development, Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) sources in Baghdad said last week that a large shipment of humanitarian relief supplies was heading to Basra, in the south, and Duhuk and Kirkuk, in the north.

The shipments include three electricity generators, large quantities of sugar, rice, medicine, milk, flour and water.

"Two generators went to Karbala and the third to Saddam Hospital in Baghdad," a Red Crescent official, who preferred not to be named, told the Jordan Times. "This is the first time that the Jordanian Red Crescent has doctored such large quantities of relief supplies to Iraq."

ago we took water from the river."

Just round the corner from where the young boy was filling the containers, past the fountain which is now dry, are steps leading down to the river where women used to come to wash clothes.

"All day the water and electricity come and go. Today they were on for three hours very early in the morning and now it is nearly sunset. Some days it's too all day," said Aliya Ja'far, adding, "This water is for cleaning; my house, not for drinking. We collect drinking water when the tap's on at home. The water has been on for five days and it's clean so there's no need to boil it any more."

Aliya Ja'far lives with her husband, uncle and her ten children. The oldest is 12 and the youngest one-and-a-half.

Her eight-year-old son carried one bowl back while she balanced the other on her head back to her house.

Sabah Sami estimates that it will take "six to seven months before electricity, water and fuel supplies are back to normal throughout the country."

Baghdad has been repaired quicker than other Iraqi cities. Basra in the south, for example, only has a few hours of electricity per day and residents still fetch water from the Euphrates River, trenches, paddies and even man-holes.

Water situation improving steadily in Iraqi capital

From Debbie Lovatt
in Baghdad

SIX WEEKS After the Gulf war, Baghdad is no longer a city without electricity relying on the Tigris River for water. These two basic amenities have by no means remained their former capacities and supply is not constant, but each day is better than the day before.

Until one week ago women could be seen washing clothes on the banks of the river and the residents of the city were fetching river water for all purposes.

An electric power returned, water purification became possible and pumps functional again.

In the older parts of the city which are higher and, therefore, require more power to pump water to every house, the pressure is low and the supply often cuts to nothing from a weak trickle.

Talib Jafil, a 13-year-old who lives with his mother, sister-in-law and nine brothers and sisters in Al Kargh area, had six five-litre containers loaded onto a trolley. It was his turn to go to the lowest street in the vicinity where there is always water in the pipes and fetch the precious liquid.

"Water only comes in a very weak trickle at night to our house," said Jafil, adding, "my family comes here every day to fetch drinking water. One week

Iraq says it still has missiles, chemical weapons

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq took the first step on Thursday towards complying with U.N. demands to destroy the missiles it fired against Israel and Saudi Arabia in the Gulf war and chemical weapons.

As required by a Security Council resolution adopted earlier this month, it sent a letter to the United Nations saying it still had ballistic missiles and chemical weapons, thus setting in motion a complicated clock that could see the destruction of these weapons in about two months.

Iraqi U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told Reuters he did not believe his country possessed any biological weapons.

Complying with another requirement, Iraq also told the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna that it had no nuclear weapons and that its production and research plants for the peaceful uses of atomic power were bombed by the allies during the Gulf war, according to a letter obtained by Reuters.

Under the tough resolution adopted on April 3, Iraq was required to give the United Nations an inventory of its chemical and biological weapons and its ballistic missiles with a range over 150 kilometres by Thursday.

It was also required to inform the IAEA of its nuclear capacity.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar must submit a plan for their destruction or removal by May 18. After the plan is accepted by the Security Council,

the weapons must be destroyed within 45 days.

Mr. Anbari was unable to give details of the types and numbers of weapons and no copy of the list was made public.

Asked whether Iraq still had Scud missiles, the type used during the Gulf war to bombard Saudi Arabia and Israel, he replied: "I should think so. It says missiles."

He said Iraq also had chemical weapons — "chemical as well." But he did not think it had any biological weapons, saying: "If I remember correctly, no, we don't."

The Iraqi envoy said the letter, in Arabic, criticised the ceasefire resolution for being "one-sided," because the problem of weapons

was a regional matter. "However, it adds that since Iraq accepted the resolution ... we hereby provide all the information needed."

He added that Iraq welcomed inspection by the world body, "and they can go wherever they would like to go and check for themselves."

Iraq's letter to the IAEA, signed by Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein, said Baghdad did not have any nuclear weapons and all nuclear-grade materials were already under IAEA safeguards.

He said the council also did not "really deal" with Israel's attack in 1981 that destroyed a nuclear installation. Iraq says was devoted to peaceful purposes.

The IAEA in a report last Nov. 27 said it had found no evidence that Iraq was diverting nuclear material to military use from its civilian research programme.

and support facilities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, as well as those devoted to research and development" were destroyed by bombs during the war.

In criticising the council for focusing on Iraq, Mr. Hussein said it ignored its own resolutions calling for Israel to place its nuclear facilities under international safeguards.

He said the council also did not "really deal" with Israel's attack in 1981 that destroyed a nuclear installation. Iraq says was devoted to peaceful purposes.

The IAEA in a report last Nov.

27 said it had found no evidence that Iraq was diverting nuclear material to military use from its civilian research programme.

Few Indian workers returning to Kuwait

TRIVANDRUM, India (R) — Hardly any of the 172,000 Indians who worked in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion last August have gone back, said a spokesman for a group representing Indians who fled the emirate.

"I know of only one person who has gone back," said the president of the Kuwait Returns Association in the South Indian state of Kerala, which has taken in 60,000 of the returning Indian workers.

"People have mixed feelings about going back. We hear planes can only land for two hours a day because the oil fire smoke is so bad," the association's president, a heart surgeon who did not want to be named, said in an interview this week.

Indians formed the second largest group of foreign workers in pre-invasion Kuwait after the 400,000-strong Palestinian community, sending home badly-needed foreign exchange.

Kuwait has asked India to expedite the return of only 1,000 doctors, nurses and medical personnel as the country tries to rebuild its shattered health services.

About 7,000 Indians chose to remain in Kuwait throughout the occupation.

Kerala's chief minister, E.K. Nayanar, was optimistic that everybody would go back soon. "After two or three months none of the 60,000 will be left," he said.

An Air India spokesman said the airline, which has resumed many flights to Gulf destinations, has not restarted flights to Kuwait.

"I don't think in the next two months we will see very much in the way of special flights to Kuwait," the heart surgeon said.

About 70 per cent of the workers want to return to Kuwait,

Gulf Arab states to meet in Iran on oil pollution

BAHRAIN (R) — An environmental organisation which includes Iraq and its Gulf war adversaries will meet in Tehran next week to discuss oil pollution, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency (GNA) said on Friday.

GNA said Bahrain's Health Minister Jawad Salem Al Arrayed would go to Tehran for the April 22-25 conference of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The eight-member organisation had put oil pollution from the six-week war at the top of its agenda, the agency said. It was not clear from the report whether Iraq would attend.

The heart surgeon said the foreign minister at the time, Inter-Gujral, told the Indian community during a visit to occupied Kuwait last September that it should respect Iraq's legacy there.

"This has hurt Indians in

for 11,000 refugees in the Iraqi border town of Safwan, said Wednesday the American military would not abandon the refugees until another organisation can provide assistance.

The U.S. army, along with Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, are caring for around 50,000 refugees in or near the buffer zone. They are all eager for international aid organisations to assume responsibility for the displaced people.

Gen. Greindl said some U.N. military observers were scheduled to arrive Saturday to Kuwait City and would be sent soon to the U.N.-established buffer zone straddling the Kuwait-Iraq border.

"The moment we have military observers and vehicles available, we will establish an immediate presence in the demilitarised zone," Gen. Greindl told a news conference.

Asked when there would be a complete handover to the U.N. peacekeeping mission, the general said, "It will be out a matter of days, it will be a matter of weeks."

The U.S. military has withdrawn tens of thousands of soldiers from southern Iraq following a formal ceasefire agreement in the Gulf war. But about 18,000 from the 3rd armored division remain in the Iraqi sector of the buffer zone, which stretches 10 kilometres inside Iraq and three-five kilometres into Kuwait.

Iraq has troops in the town of Um Qasr, which also is part of the demilitarised zone.

Both the U.S. and the Iraqi forces will have to leave the zone under the U.N. peacekeeping plan.

But U.S. Army Colonel John Kalb, who is in charge of camp

Iraqi police will arrest them.

Officials from the U.N. High Commission for Refugees have made only brief visits to the refugee camps and have not announced any plans for relief operations.

Iraq and Kuwait will assume civil administration of their territory in the buffer zone, including police duties and border control. This has alarmed refugees, many of whom fought as rebels fear Iraqi police will arrest them.

Gen. Greindl said he would be negotiating guidelines for Iraqi policemen when he travels to Baghdad this weekend. Gen. Greindl already has met with Kuwaiti and Iraqi government officials since arriving April 13, and described both sides as "very cooperative."

More than 30 nations are contributing personnel to the 1,440-man U.N. operation, including for the first time the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, France, China, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Prince Khaled, son of Defence Minister Prince Sultan, was on a tour of the Arab forces that are still stationed in Kuwait.

U.S. Senate panel proposes war tribunal

WASHINGTON (R) — The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a bill on Thursday calling for an international tribunal to prosecute Iraqi war criminals.

The bill said the United States should take the proposal to the United Nations Security Council or, if the council failed to act, work with the Gulf war allies to set up a tribunal.

The legislation, which was passed by a 16-0 vote and now goes to the full Senate, required the president to order government departments to collect evidence of Iraqi war crimes.

It said there was evidence that Iraqi authorities had violated international law in its conduct of the war.

Full U.N. deployment still weeks away in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission said Friday his forces won't be fully deployed to the Kuwait-Iraq border for weeks, and he could not say who would shelter the 50,000 refugees in the area.

The remarks by Austria's General Gunther Greindl suggested U.S. forces may remain for several more weeks in a narrow strip of southern Iraq, where they have been running refugee camps for Iraqis fleeing civil unrest in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Gen. Greindl said some U.N. military observers were scheduled to arrive Saturday to Kuwait City and would be sent soon to the U.N.-established buffer zone straddling the Kuwait-Iraq border.

"The moment we have military observers and vehicles available, we will establish an immediate presence in the demilitarised zone," Gen. Greindl told a news conference.

Asked when there would be a complete handover to the U.N. peacekeeping mission, the general said, "It will be out a matter of days, it will be a matter of weeks."

The U.S. military has withdrawn tens of thousands of soldiers from southern Iraq following a formal ceasefire agreement in the Gulf war. But about 18,000 from the 3rd armored division remain in the Iraqi sector of the buffer zone, which stretches 10 kilometres inside Iraq and three-five kilometres into Kuwait.

Iraq has troops in the town of Um Qasr, which also is part of the demilitarised zone.

Both the U.S. and the Iraqi forces will have to leave the zone under the U.N. peacekeeping plan.

But U.S. Army Colonel John Kalb, who is in charge of camp

Iraqi police will arrest them.

Officials from the U.N. High Commission for Refugees have made only brief visits to the refugee camps and have not announced any plans for relief operations.

Iraq and Kuwait will assume civil administration of their territory in the buffer zone, including police duties and border control. This has alarmed refugees, many of whom fought as rebels fear Iraqi police will arrest them.

Gen. Greindl said he would be negotiating guidelines for Iraqi policemen when he travels to Baghdad this weekend. Gen. Greindl already has met with Kuwaiti and Iraqi government officials since arriving April 13, and described both sides as "very cooperative."

More than 30 nations are contributing personnel to the 1,440-man U.N. operation, including for the first time the five

13 dead, 800 injured during Eid holiday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Government department and public institutions in Jordan reopen Saturday after a five-day Eid Al Fitr holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

The past holiday was marked by reported deaths and injuries in road of accidents, incidents of various types, fires and food poisoning cases.

Civil defence, public security and hospital sources reported the death of at least 13 people and the injury of more than 800 others in various parts of the country, with children making up for the largest part of the casualties.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) alone reported that its teams were called to put out nine fires. It also reported 22 food poisoning cases which required civil defence men's help.

The majority of food poisoning cases were reported by Jordan's 12 hospitals, from Irbid to Aqaba.

Road accidents in the various governorates amounted to over a 100 and at least 6,000 people were reported to have received some kind of treatment or medica-

al examination at hospitals and health centres in the country during the past week.

One of the major incidents during the past holiday was the murder of a 22-year-old man, identified by the police only as S.S.B., who was killed by his friend, identified as N.A.A.

Amman Police Department Director Brigadier Ghaleb Al Zoubi told Al Ra'i daily that the victim's body was found lying on the main street near the crossroad leading to Taj and Sofeh districts.

When the police arrived they found he had been stabbed to death by a switch knife. Brigadier Zoubi said that papers on the body revealed the man's identity. This, in turn, led the police to learn about his friend who was last seen with the murdered man.

He said that the police then moved to capture the murderer by searching for him first in Amman and then in Zarqa where he was captured and admitted to committing the crime.

According to Brigadier Zoubi, both the victim and the murderer had police records and the murder occurred following a quarrel between them.

UNRWA study shows education system crippled in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — The Education Department of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Near East has conducted a study on the situation of schools in the occupied Arab territories during the past six months.

The study showed that the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip schools had lost half of their class days because of military closure orders or curfews.

It said that UNRWA's 98 schools in the West Bank lost in the period extending from September 1990 to March 1991 51.3 per cent out of 178 school days. UNRWA's 149 schools in Gaza Strip lost 48.2 per cent of 179 school days during the same period.

According to the study, a total of 13,691 school days were lost in UNRWA's schools in the Gaza Strip while 8,405 were lost in the West Bank UNRWA schools.

The study said that 73.4 per cent of the lost school days in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip were caused by military closure orders issued by the

Israeli occupation authorities, 13.3 per cent were caused by general strikes — 13.3 per cent in the West Bank and 14.3 in Gaza Strip — and the rest were caused by curfews imposed by the occupation authorities or by strikes staged by school students and teachers at schools to mourn colleagues killed by the Israelis.

On April 4, 1991, the occupation authorities ordered the closure of UNRWA's preparatory school for boys in Al Nuseirat camp in Gaza Strip, until further notice, because of demonstrations which took place in the school.

"Before the crisis, business was so good that we did not even need to market ourselves because Jordan was established on the world tourism map," said Sami Ansari, general manager of the Holiday International Hotel. "We are still there, but all we need now is some movement from the government to change the image of Jordan and reassure the world that the country is safe," he said.

One of the hardest challenges will be luring back Americans, the largest single group of visitors to Jordan before the war, though most stayed only 48 hours as part of Holy Land tours.

Many Americans stopped flying altogether during the crisis and there is still tension between Washington and Amman.

Bassam Qaqa, head of the Aqaba Region Authority, told Reuters the flow of visitors stopped completely in mid-August after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. "Now local tourism is picking up fast and we hope it will be the same with the foreign guests."

He said the main tourist season, from mid-September to the end of April, was expected to reach pre-war levels. Between May and August few foreign

Hotel operators say the gov-

Algerian doctor heads for Iraq to inspect health services

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Algerian Medical Federation Jamal Wali Abbas, who is also chairman of the Arab Emergency Health Committee (AEHC), left Amman for Baghdad Friday on a several-day visit to Iraq.

Dr. Abbas will inspect during his visit Algerian and Arab medical teams working in Iraq and will familiarise himself with the services they provide to the Iraqi people.

An Algerian medical team is currently working in Iraq and providing health services to hospitals in the cities of Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala.

The delegation also presented 180 tonnes of medicine, milk and food to the Iraqi people.

In another development, a delegation representing the AEHC returned to Amman from Baghdad Friday after a week-long visit to Iraq.

The delegation, which was led by AEHC rapporteur, Dr. Musa Abu Hamid, visited several Iraqi hospitals and presented gifts to Iraqis injured in the Gulf war and the incidents which took place afterwards.

The delegation also presented 180 tonnes of medicine, milk and food to the Iraqi people.

Ministry concedes shortcomings in awarding student scholarships

By Caroline Faraj
Special To The Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Bashairi has admitted that there were shortcomings in processing the high number of applications for higher education scholarships. He estimated the error rate at around 20 per cent.

In an earlier statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Bashairi said the ministry had received 5,000 applications for the 370 university scholarships available on the basis of the financial status of applicants.

A large number of poor but excelling students have applied or sent petitions to the cultural advisors at the four Jordanian universities, but could not win such scholarships because of the new criteria applied by the Ministry of Higher Education as of the beginning of this academic year. The ministry has designed a questionnaire aimed at identifying the need amongst applicants and set Feb. 1 to Feb. 21 as the deadline for filling in the questionnaire, a period which is sufficient to appraise all interested and eligible students of such opportunities and of the need to replace their old application with new ones.

We must deepen trust between Japan and the Soviet Union. Economic cooperation must take place, only then can relations between our two countries improve.

Dr. Bashairi said that due to the time limit, the ministry accepted all the applications without any verification of the status of applicants, basing its acceptance on its confidence of the accuracy of information given by applicants and its knowledge that each applicant was fully aware of the responsibility he bears in case any of the information found inaccurate. Dr. Bashairi said that the processing of applications took long although the ministry did not verify the information.

"How would the situation be if the ministry verified the information given by students and how much time would that process take if we did that?" Dr. Bashairi asked.

It should be noted in this regard that the ministry finalised the list of scholars of 600 excelling students as of the beginning of January. The scholarship questionnaires for the poor was only finalised in February. This means that the ministry had enough time to collect and verify information from applicants rather than rely on what is mentioned on the application form or the student's statement.

Students winning scholarships by the government used to get JD 35 a month as pocket money, but this was reduced to JD 25 and then to JD 20 as of this year, according to Dr. Bashairi. In an interview with Petra published last week, he said that grants for books went down from JD 30 per month to JD 26.

Mr. Gorbachev, who kept his luncheon host in Kyoto waiting 45 minutes, acknowledged many problems remained before Japan and the Soviet Union could formally sign a peace treaty ending World War II and putting relations on a proper, warmer footing.

Later Friday, Mr. Baker made an unannounced tour of Old Jerusalem.

Mr. Baker had planned to take a walking tour of the Old City in March. But he cancelled it after a knife-wielding Arab stabbed four



Aqaba tries to lure back tourists scared off by crisis

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuter

AQABA — Jordan's Red Sea resort of Aqaba is trying hard to lure back foreign tourists scared off by the Kingdom's anti-Western rhetoric during the Gulf crisis.

The resort was turned into a ghost town by the crisis and beachfront hotels went for days without a single occupant. Jordanian tourists are trickling back and officials here say Europeans will start returning to the Kingdom's most popular holiday destination when the main season starts in September.

Investors are going ahead with plans to expand the resort, which has some of the richest marine life and most spectacular coral reefs in the region.

"Two months ago, we were praying to see a human being in Aqaba. It became like a ghost city during the crisis," said Salim, a waiter at one of the hotels dotting the golden beaches edged by white houses and purple-brown mountains.

"Thank God locals are now returning and we are told the first charter flights from Finland will start in September," he added.

Jordan has the burden of repairing an international image tarnished by demonstrations of anti-Western feeling that flared during the Gulf crisis.

Hotel operators say the gov-

ernment has to move fast to erase the images on Western television of angry Jordanians vowing to kill foreigners to avenge the allied bombing of Iraq.

"Before the crisis, business was so good that we did not even need to market ourselves because Jordan was established on the world tourism map," said Sami Ansari, general manager of the Holiday International Hotel. "We are still there, but all we need now is some movement from the government to change the image of Jordan and reassure the world that the country is safe," he said.

Total visitor numbers from January to August reached 117,000, against 127,000 in all of 1989. Revenue rose to \$370 million in the same period, against \$475 million in all of 1989.

Scandinavians, mostly on week-long package trips, were among Jordan's biggest visitor groups before the crisis.

One of the hardest challenges will be luring back Americans, the largest single group of visitors to Jordan before the war, though most stayed only 48 hours as part of Holy Land tours.

Many Americans stopped flying altogether during the crisis and there is still tension between Washington and Amman.

Bassam Qaqa, head of the Aqaba Region Authority, told Reuters the flow of visitors stopped completely in mid-August after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. "Now local tourism is picking up fast and we hope it will be the same with the foreign guests."

He said Aqaba was developing the virgin southern beach, where three coral reef reserves have been set up, and was to build a village with 600 small chalets and three more hotels.

Mr. Qaqa said he was looking for investors to build an underwater marine observatory. There were plans to build a cable car between the mountain and the shore and a conference centre to host winter conventions from Europe.

Authority readies plan for water distribution in summer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority in the Amman region

is now putting the finishing touches to a comprehensive plan for the distribution of water during the coming summer season when consumption normally increases largely due to an increase in the use of water for domestic purposes and the presence of visitors from the Gulf states, according to the head of the Amman Water Department Sinan Khleifat Friday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Khleifat said that the present level of water consumption in the Amman Governorate for domestic and industrial uses amounted to 210,000 cubic metres daily, expected to rise to 230,000 cubic metres per day during the coming summer.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

The Water Authority in the Amman region is determined to ensure sufficient water supplies to all parts of the governorate, in a fair manner, now that it has overcome many of the negative aspects that emerged in the past summer and after replacing many parts of the old water network in a number of regions," Mr.

Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Mr. Khleifat said that his department hoped to provide the required amounts of water from its own resources, namely the artesian wells and underground resources within the Greater Amman region.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Visit with a purpose: Goal is single standard

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker's visit to Jordan today is too short to be capable of curing all the ills that have afflicted American-Jordanian relations over the past decades or so, especially during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed. Nevertheless, it is important and necessary that the common goal is to heal the wounds and bring about peace with justice to this troubled part of the world.

A step back in history would easily show that the deterioration in Jordan-U.S. ties began at the time of the Camp David accords, when the Carter administration wanted to sell us a package we would not buy. More recently, the slide reached a nadir over the handling of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The real problems arose when Jordan was convinced Iraq could be persuaded to withdraw through peaceful means and an Arab solution, while the U.S. insisted on using the military option and seeing in the crisis the right opportunity to establish a new world order based on the ashes of a fellow Arab and Muslim country.

While Jordanians have no regrets over the principled position we had taken on the issue of Kuwait, most of us are willing to leave the past behind us if the new American-sponsored world order will be built on true international legitimacy, on fairness and justice for all, and on shouldering the moral responsibility for the destruction of Iraq and its terrible consequences.

The immediate test lies in Mr. Baker's current efforts to solve the Palestinian problem. For each time he talks about the U.S.' inability to "force" Israel out of the occupied territories, the need for "confidence building measures" between the Arabs and Israel and the necessity for "direct dialogue" among the parties concerned, without mentioning a word about the new world order that is based on the sanctity of U.N. resolutions and obeying international law that Washington applied to Iraq, the secretary of state and fellow American leaders simply take us back to where we started. This is the point where we thought and believed that the U.S. simply wanted to "take care of the greatest threat to Israel's security," when it attacked and destroyed Iraq's military machine, as Mr. Baker himself admitted upon his return to Washington from his first post-war trip in the region in mid-March.

We would rather not call it a test for Mr. Baker. But when his administration agrees to more and bigger cash transfers to Israel (the last was \$650m for the damages Israel suffered during the war) without any attempt to tie this extra aid to any particular Israeli behaviour, like ending its settlement drive or ending its violations of international law or conventions or agreeing to attend a U.N. peace conference, the issue of questioning American fairness and fortitude is only naturally forced upon us. Plainly, our people would not and could not buy the argument that the U.S. cannot stand up to Israel the way it did to Iraq. Nor would we ever consider it just and fair from the U.S. to turn a deaf ear to Israel's rejection of the land-for-peace formula when Iraq is made the easy target of new and old U.N. resolutions and their implementation almost on daily basis.

We do welcome Mr. Baker and his delegation on his first visit to Jordan. We do wish for successful and productive talks with His Majesty the King and other Jordanian leaders. But we would like him to know that Arabs resent it when Israel's intransigence is met with clichés and hollow words from Washington, just as when its obstinacy is rewarded with more dollars.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the fresh tour of James Baker in the Middle East Al Ra'i daily said regardless of the character of a peace conference, which Washington is seeking to convene, whether regional or international, the only objective remains the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Should the secretary of state go along with Israel's ideas, which by no means conform to the implementation of this resolution, said the paper, he would be rendering null and void the concept of international legitimacy. The idea of the regional conference was not objected to by Egypt, which took a different stand from those of Syria and Jordan emphasising that Amman can by no means replace the Palestinians in talks that can determine their future, the paper pointed out. At the same time, said the paper, one has to point out that as the U.S. secretary embarks on his third tour of the region in five weeks, Washington is quite aware of Israel's views and Israel's determination not to involve the PLO in any negotiations and its insistence to ignore Resolution 242. Washington had earlier announced that Baker's tour was designed to open the way for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem on the basis or resolution 242 and 338; and it remains to be seen whether Baker would take serious efforts towards achieving that goal despite Israel's procrastinations, the paper said. In the meantime, the paper added, Jordan will remain totally committed to its national stand and will continue to strive to see to it that the whole Middle East question is settled in accordance with the international legitimacy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily reminds his readers of the fact that the water problem in Jordan remains chronic and could not be solved by cosmetic surgery. Mohammad Daoud says Jordan is not only facing scarcity of water resources, but the amount of water collected in the dams has been found to be polluted to a degree that it could not be used safely in farming. Calling on members of the public to economise in the use of water for domestic and industrial purposes indeed not enough, although it is important and the water authority ought to enlist the help of water experts to find fresh water resources or come up with means of augmenting the present quantities of water, says the writer.

View from Amman

"America and the New World Order"

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

IMPERIAL ROME aspired to establish a world order rooted in the idea that all human beings share certain common characteristics regardless of colour, race or geography. This simple yet revolutionary idea was, in turn, a reflection of the Roman discovery of natural law, which, simply put, means that there are certain laws in nature that are universally applicable. The law of gravity is one such law. The Romans also discovered that men, wherever they may be, share certain basic characteristics of humanity: All men are born, and they age and die. All men have a certain level of intelligence, aspirations, and desires and all men seek comfort and try to avoid suffering. This simple idea became the basis for the Roman concept of citizenship as well as the attempt to apply a common law throughout the world.

With the advent of monotheism, Christianity and later Islam this attempt at universalism was given a religious basis. Hence forth and until the age of enlightenment, the search for a universal order was couched in religious terminology. Unlike Christian or Muslim seekers of a universal government based on God's revealed law and His commandments, thinkers since the age of enlightenment go back to the ancient Greek and Roman secular bases. What is good for man is good for him because he discovered it in a positive manner and according to certain rules of logic and reason and not because it is religiously ordained.

In Europe and the United States, this secular trend culminated in the articulation of two opposing ideologies: Socialist-communist and liberal-market oriented systems. Though both shared in their

emphasis on the material-well-being of the average man from different perspectives each articulated its own methodologies and modalities in the race to reach its goal. Both the socialist and the liberal — children of Western civilisation — competed for the creation of the new man, the new heaven on earth. Marxism aspired towards the creation of the new world order by emphasising its call for all the workers of the world to unite. In this endeavour it attempted to submerge the individual in the group; the nation-state in a world-state system that would one day, the doctrine declared, "wither away". International cosmopolitanism would one day replace nationalism: The lion would coexist with the lamb!

America, on the other hand, was, from the beginning, called the new world. Its early settlers viewed themselves as the harbingers of a new "pure" world order. Puritans they were called and puritans they viewed themselves who would build a new order based on justice, liberty and equality. It is here, they thought, where humanity would resurrect the good instinct of man and rise to build a new Jerusalem. Protestants by sect and nature in that they were in protest against the old European systems of tyranny, feudalism and inequality, they found ready expression for their feelings in The Old Testament. Their emphasis on hard work, savings, frugality, eventually gave rise to material success as the measure of human well-being. In this constantly expanding growth of the fronders of geography, ideas, liberties and economy, Judaic ideas found fertile ground not only to strike roots, but to expand to the point where

the entire system came to be known, by the advent of the twentieth century, as the Indo-Christian civilisation.

This at once explained two very important features of the new world order that President Bush is now establishing. The first is that America by temperament and historical background views itself as the natural leader and establisher of the new order. An ever-expanding empire, unlike any other in historical annals — if for nothing else but for its military capability and continued technological superiority — is now attempting to span the whole world. This it can do because it has the wherewithal as well as the will in addition to the fact that it can plan in accordance with the scientific method. It won the "race" against Marxism precisely, because of its scientificism as well as its covert partnership with Zionism.

The Zionist connection in the second most distinguishing feature of the new world order. It provides the mechanism of this order with ideas and direction in exchange for which it realises its own historical goals. It is no coincidence then that in the three instances in which three American presidents in this century, Woodrow Wilson, F.D. Roosevelt and now George Bush, proposed the establishment of a world system they were highly influenced by the Zionist lobby. Luring Kuwait to behave towards Iraq the way it did before August 2, 1990 and luring Iraq to expose its forces in the wilderness of Haifa Al Ba'ut must be viewed against the background of this plan. Not a conspiracy but a well-thought out, well-executed plan that gave the cover not only to reduce Iraq but also to insinuate for the moment, the new world order.

Gorbachev magic fails in Japan

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuter

NAGASAKI, Japan — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, winner of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his foreign policy magic, leaves cash-rich Japan virtually empty-handed after marathon bargaining that exposed his growing weakness at home and abroad.

Gorbachev came to Tokyo to pursue what some have called the real estate deal of the century — Japanese aid worth an estimated \$28 billion in exchange for a group of remote Soviet-held northern islands off the coast of Hokkaido.

But he had to settle instead for a carefully-crafted diplomatic compromise allowing both sides to claim some gains — and that only after 12 hours of sharp exchanges with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

"No one is really happy but at least now we can all go home," said one member of the Soviet delegation. "The real fight is ahead, back in Moscow."

In the same address, Gorbachev reached towards his critics on the left in an apparent response to Yeltsin's own conciliatory call for round-table talks that could produce a government of consensus.

"A market economy and democracy are not going to complement each other unless political forces take steps in order to make them meet," he said.

He hinted he was ready for compromise with his radical domestic critics — led by populist Boris Yeltsin — as a bulwark

against resurgent hardliners threatening to try to dump him as Communist Party leader, possibly at next Wednesday's central committee plenum.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official who took part in the talks said Gorbachev had suggested he could not afford the political costs of any concessions over control of the disputed islands, seized by the Red Army in 1945.

Gorbachev also faces demands for his resignation by an unruly but growing independent labour movement and rumblings from the right.

He appealed directly to powerful Japanese business leaders for investment and technological support that could pump up his deflating economy.

On Wednesday Gorbachev told the Japanese parliament the situation at home was "difficult and dramatic" and he said the world community could ill afford not to back him.

"We are counting on support for our efforts, particularly now as we go through this critical stage of transition."

In the same address, Gorbachev reached towards his critics on the left in an apparent response to Yeltsin's own conciliatory call for round-table talks that could produce a government of consensus.

"A market economy and democracy are not going to complement each other unless political forces take steps in order to make them meet," he said.

"people must come to realise: those in the same boat must row in the same direction."

Settlement

(Continued from page 1)

works, the removal of the mobile homes and the payment of damages.

It said the settlement activity was illegal and added: "This is doubly so given that the invaders are Israeli civilians who carried out their activities under the cover of night," the petition said.

It named the army as defendant, saying that the army has responsibility for enforcing the military rules that govern the occupied territories.

The proposal could in fact be presented during Mr. Baker's current tour, "one well-informed western diplomat said. "We do not know for sure, but it could be that soon," he added.

His Majesty King Hussein, who will meet Mr. Baker at Aqaba today during the secretary of state's brief stay in Jordan, is expected to reaffirm that the key issue of the entire equation are Palestinian representation in the peace process and the implementation of Resolution 242, which is the essence of Resolution 338.

Foreign Minister Taher Masri, who met Mr. Baker in Geneva April 12, is believed to have emphasised these two points in addition to allowing for an active European role in any proposed Middle East peace process to ensure support of the application of "international legitimacy."

Jordan supports a land for peace solution based on resolutions 242 and 338 but has accepted proposals to delay the idea of a U.N.-sponsored Middle East conference until more ground was covered through "quiet diplomacy."

Although little is known about the results of the Geneva meeting between Messrs. Baker and Masri, informed sources say that the secretary briefed his Jordanian counterpart on the different ideas being floated around. They

been floated by the U.S. secretary of state.

But the other shift in the U.S. stance that has been positively viewed here is the inclination by the Bush administration to allow European participation in the "peace conference," according to diplomats and other informed sources.

They said that depending on what impact the new evolving ideas might have on the various parties, the secretary of state might formally propose the conference, or simply leave it to the countries concerned to accept it without formally proposing it.

"The proposal could in fact be presented during Mr. Baker's current tour," one well-informed western diplomat said. "We do not know for sure, but it could be that soon," he added.

Polytical moves triggered by this agreement came to an abrupt end when Jordan called off political coordination with the PLO in July 1986 but said it remained committed to the principles contained therein.

The issue became more complicated when Jordan severed all legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories in July 1988 allowing the PLO to assume its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their national interests.

Generally, however, officials say that they feel heartened by President George Bush's efforts to bring about agreement among the concerned parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute although "they fall short of applying direct pressure on Israel to accept international legitimacy."

Jordan has accepted the principle of a meeting which would bring Arab states and Israel to a negotiating table but attached the acceptance with a number of strings which would add credence and legitimacy to any such proposed meeting.

Upon his return from the Geneva meeting with Mr. Baker,

added that none of the proposals was final and that there were a number of questions to be answered by Jordan's leadership.

Informed sources add that the questions may have centred on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and perception of future relations between a Palestinian entity and Jordan.

The Kingdom has been saying that it would accept a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation but only if it was publicly asked to do so by the PLO and although no such request has been made officials here say such an outcome is possible.

"They (the PLO) have probed such an idea before," said a senior Jordanian official in an apparent reference to a 1985 agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

Polytical moves triggered by this agreement came to an abrupt end when Jordan called off political coordination with the PLO in July 1986 but said it remained committed to the principles contained therein.

The issue became more complicated when Jordan severed all legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories in July 1988 allowing the PLO to assume its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their national interests.

Generally, however, officials say that they feel heartened by President George Bush's efforts to bring about agreement among the concerned parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute although "they fall short of applying direct pressure on Israel to accept international legitimacy."

Jordan has accepted the principle of a meeting which would bring Arab states and Israel to a negotiating table but attached the acceptance with a number of strings which would add credence and legitimacy to any such proposed meeting.

Upon his return from the Geneva meeting with Mr. Baker,

added that none of the proposals was final and that there were a number of questions to be answered by Jordan's leadership.

Informed sources add that the questions may have centred on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and perception of future relations between a Palestinian entity and Jordan.

The Kingdom has been saying that it would accept a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation but only if it was publicly asked to do so by the PLO and although no such request has been made officials here say such an outcome is possible.

"They (the PLO) have probed such an idea before," said a senior Jordanian official in an apparent reference to a 1985 agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

Polytical moves triggered by this agreement came to an abrupt end when Jordan called off political coordination with the PLO in July 1986 but said it remained committed to the principles contained therein.

The issue became more complicated when Jordan severed all legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories in July 1988 allowing the PLO to assume its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their national interests.

Generally, however, officials say that they feel heartened by President George Bush's efforts to bring about agreement among the concerned parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute although "they fall short of applying direct pressure on Israel to accept international legitimacy."

Jordan has accepted the principle of a meeting which would bring Arab states and Israel to a negotiating table but attached the acceptance with a number of strings which would add credence and legitimacy to any such proposed meeting.

Upon his return from the Geneva meeting with Mr. Baker,

added that none of the proposals was final and that there were a number of questions to be answered by Jordan's leadership.

Informed sources add that the questions may have centred on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and perception of future relations between a Palestinian entity and Jordan.

The Kingdom has been saying that it would accept a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation but only if it was publicly asked to do so by the PLO and although no such request has been made officials here say such an outcome is possible.

"They (the PLO) have probed such an idea before," said a senior Jordanian official in an apparent reference to a 1985 agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

Polytical moves triggered by this agreement came to an abrupt end when Jordan called off political coordination with the PLO in July 1986 but said it remained committed to the principles contained therein.

The issue became more complicated when Jordan severed all legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories in July 1988 allowing the PLO to assume its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their national interests.

Sovereignty

(Continued from page 1)
right to have access to technology and to develop itself," said a young university researcher who also asked not to be named.

Despite the friction between the leadership and the people, there seems to be a consensus in respecting the ceasefire plan and its provisions. Iraqi newspapers, which uncharacteristically published the full details of the plan, continue to attack the provisions which are seen as aimed at containing and crippling Iraq.

A closed National Assembly session, which approved the ceasefire resolution (SCR 687), turned into a heated debate. None of the 120 members could easily vote in favour of its acceptance. Neither the foreign minister nor the speaker of the National Assembly could defend it.

Everyone realised that none of the views aired was really relevant. As speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Saadi Mehdi Saleh, put it at the opening of the session Iraqis simply had "no choice".

But officials — who like many Iraqis evade discussing the details of the plan — still hope that the ceasefire will give the government and the country the breathing space needed to enable them to stand on their feet again.

Some officials and analysts believe that the Iraqi leadership has actually bought time for it to start reconstructing a wrecked country and embark on political changes and democratic reforms that will eventually ease off international restrictions on Baghdad.

The danger, officials admit, is that by then the Baathist government would have lost its complete independence and would have been practically transformed into a Western puppet. "We really do not have space to manoeuvre but we are resisting being turned into just another American puppet in the region," said one official.

Baaghdad's official acceptance of Resolution 687 has been received with wide cynicism. Many cannot accept the highly costly and tragic shift from defiance to submission. "We leapt from no, no, to an indefinite yes..." said a university professor.

The acceptance of the ceasefire plan seems to have further eroded the credibility of the leadership, but at this stage most people are more concerned about their daily survival than delving into a philosophical argument about lost dignity.

"We have suffered enough. We are grateful that we are still alive," said a novelist.

The ceasefire, however, has not eliminated official, and even public, fears that the country might be divided, especially after the armed rebellion in the Kurdish north and the Shi'ite south.

Officials fear that the West and Iran will exploit the lingering discontent in the north and south, and the tragedy of thousands of refugees to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq as a prelude to fragmenting the country into three parts.

The massive airlift of U.S. aid to thousands of Kurdish refugees in the north was mainly viewed as a political tool to deepen the split between Baghdad and the Kurds. But as one official admitted, the government could not stop the operation and it did not even have the means to replace the American aid of food supplies. "It is ironic. Regardless of Washington's political aims it is practically helping the government. We simply do not have sufficient means to help all of the refugees," said one official.

The same applies to the south where the U.S. army and allies had distributed food to Iraqis in the areas they were holding. Although the Iraqi government has welcomed American withdrawal there are concerns that Tehran will seize the opportunity to fuel unrest in the predominantly Shi'ite south. "Tehran might use the refugee plight in the south to cross the border under the pretext of feeding the starving refugees," said one Iraqi writer who is close to the government.

But the government still believes that the U.S. is not really interested in geographically tearing Iraq apart, especially if the result will be a stronger Iran and the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the region. "We do not think that Washington will approve the geographic division of Iraq... but it might be interested in deepening sectarian and ethnic friction to maintain a weak central government in Baghdad," said the Iraqi official.

Iraqi refineries repair damage, resume production

AL DORA REFINERY, Iraq (R) — Iraq, its people starved of fuel by U.S. and allied air raids during the Gulf war, has started producing petrol again and is confident that its refineries will be fully operational by June.

"We started production again three days ago," Mofar Khalil Ibrahim, deputy general manager of Al Dora, Iraq's second-largest refinery, told foreign journalists Friday.

"We already started giving them (state distribution companies) products from yesterday," he added during a tour of the refinery in the southwestern outskirts of Baghdad.

Mr. Ibrahim said Al Dora, which was repeatedly bombed by the United States and its Gulf war allies, had a pre-war production capacity of 92,000 barrels per day — approaching 25 per cent of Iraq's entire refining capacity.

Mr. Ibrahim said the refinery, which was inspected by President Saddam Hussein Sunday, was currently operating at 75 per cent of capacity.

"We are producing gasoline, kerosene, gas oil and black fuel," he added.

He said 1,300 workers — three times the normal workforce — had been repairing the refinery round the clock since the Gulf war guns fell silent at the end of four.

He said trade sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait had not impeded reconstruction work, adding that the refinery still had adequate supplies of chemical additives needed in the refining process.

"We have depended 100 per cent on our own experience and

resources — human and material. It has been very difficult taking into consideration the embargo," he said.

Shortages of gasoline have hit ordinary Iraqis hard.

The government ration — 30 litres every 20 days — is scarcely enough to cover daily trips to and from work.

Petrol is available on the black market, but at a price. The government ration costs 90 fils (30 cents on the official exchange rate) a litre. The black market rate is six dinars (more than \$20).

Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said on Monday that Iraq's largest refinery at Baiji, 200 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, had resumed production.

The refinery, which met 70 per cent of Iraq's needs before being crippled in the war, would be producing at full capacity by the end of May, it added on Monday.

Al Dora's maintenance manager, Dathar Al Kashash, said they too were working to reach full capacity by then. "We expect to be at full capacity in one month."

At home, Iraqis were without electricity in the aftermath of the war.

Things have improved — particularly for the people of Baghdad

— and the authorities say further improvements are on the way.

The Iraq News Agency (INA)

reported on Thursday that four of

the six generating units at Iraq's

thermal power station at Baiji

had been repaired.

"The repaired units will satisfy all the electricity needs of Bagdad, Al Anbar, Salabeddin and Tamin provinces," it said.

The four provinces are home to

more than one third of Iraq's 18

million people.

position had retracted during the second meeting because the number of points mentioned was 11 instead of 18 from the first session.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

first meeting with Mr. Baker, said: "We need to continue talking since we have already started in this process." He said those who are calling for a boycott simply are not able to produce any alternatives. "Cuba is the only country in the Security Council that we can count on to defend our position," he said sarcastically.

The statement that will be handed to Mr. Baker will be tough but proper, a source on the Palestinian drafting committee said. It will stress the need for the convening of an international conference, a role for Europe and the United Nations. It will stress the PLO representation, the need to include a Jerusalemite and a deportee in any Palestinian delegation and the right to self-determination, statehood and the right of return for Palestinians.

According to Mr. Astrawi, "we are not changing our goals, all we are willing to talk about are the means to reach these goals."

The statement will also probably be shorter. "It seems Mr. Baker is not reading our statements so we will make it shorter maybe he will have a chance to read it this time," the source on the drafting committee said. It also will not be written by way of a set of points since some analysts commented that the Palestinian's

commented that the Palestinian's

aid to thousands of Kurdish refugees in the north was mainly viewed as a political tool to deepen the split between Baghdad and the Kurds. But as one official admitted, the government could not stop the operation and it did not even have the means to replace the American aid of food supplies.

"It is ironic. Regardless of Washington's political aims it is practically helping the government. We simply do not have sufficient means to help all of the refugees," said one official.

The same applies to the south where the U.S. army and allies had distributed food to Iraqis in the areas they were holding. Although the Iraqi government has welcomed American withdrawal there are concerns that Tehran will seize the opportunity to fuel unrest in the predominantly Shi'ite south. "Tehran might use the refugee plight in the south to cross the border under the pretext of feeding the starving refugees," said one Iraqi writer who is close to the government.

But the government still believes that the U.S. is not really interested in geographically tearing Iraq apart, especially if the result will be a stronger Iran and the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the region. "We do not think that Washington will approve the geographic division of Iraq... but it might be interested in deepening sectarian and ethnic friction to maintain a weak central government in Baghdad," said the Iraqi official.

MOVING?
Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the works, Door to Door. Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508 ARAMEX AIR CARGO

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 639968

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Kashmir Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Luncheons Take away service available
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

PRESS CENTER Facilities

Team off to Iraq to begin rebuilding of Karbala hospital

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team of volunteers, including five Jordanian engineers, left for Iraq Friday evening in the first phase of a project to rebuild hospitals and establish centres for victims of the Gulf war.

The relief convoy, organised by the Middle East Action Network (MEAN), included foodstuff as well as baby milk in addition to cement and related building material to launch the physical reconstruction of a hospital in the Shiite Holy City of Karbala in southern Iraq.

"This is our first project," said Sadallah Atrib, founder and chairman of MEAN. "The hospital escaped relatively unscathed from the war only to be devastated in the (Shiite) rebellion that followed," said the relief worker, who preferred to be known as Sadallah.

Sadallah, who has been raising funds in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and India for the project estimated to cost between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, said the hospital was now limited to its reception area where emergency cases of children are being admitted.

"The outer structure of the building is left intact, but every room inside and the entire medical equipment have been totally destroyed," he told the Jordan Times.

According to Sadallah, the project will be completed in about three months' time, but in the meantime his organisation, which has an international membership, has also launched programmes to care for children orphaned and others disabled in the war.

"If one looks for relief pro-

jects in Iraq, there are millions," he said. "But the first priority is to programmes aimed at saving lives."

MEAN has sent generators and medicine as well as other relief supplies to Iraq. It gave particular attention to treatment of diarrhoeal diseases among Iraqi children. "Diarrhoea cases are too many," Sadallah said. "First we sent in (intravenous) drips and then oral therapy tablets."

MEAN was joined Friday by the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT), an India-based organisation which hopes to help rebuild a hospital in the southern Iraqi city of Basra and set up an orphanage. It is also seeking areas where it could offer additional help.

"We are going into Iraq with an open mind," said Ramananda Avadhut, executive director of the organisation which draws its objective from the spiritual concept of "service to God is service to humanity."

"We will assess the actual situation at various Iraqi health facilities and help wherever we can," said Ramananda, who travelled along with the relief convoy (Ananda Marga members use only one name). Avadhut is a title.

AMURT has also distributed food and other relief aid to Jordanians who were forced to leave Kuwait as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Sadallah, who led Friday's convoy, does not underestimate the magnitude of the task that awaits relief organisations in Iraq. "But no project is too big for us since we believe that there are enough good people around in the world who are willing to help a good cause," he said.

Sadallah, who was a member of the Gulf Peace Team which sought in vain to prevent the Gulf war by setting up a camp on the Iraqi-Saudi border since December, has been in touch with hundreds of organisations around the world soliciting help for relief for the Iraqi people.



A relief worker takes stock of the destruction at Karbala's Al Hussain hospital (Photo: MEAN).



Sadallah Atrib, founder of MEAN, stands in front of a building.

"In Austria, we put an advertisement saying the cost of one packet of cigarettes or a bottle of beer would save the life of an Iraqi child," he recounted. "We were overwhelmed by the response. Thousands sent in just the price of one packet of cigarettes or one bottle of beer, making us think whether we should have referred to the cost of a motor car," said Sadallah, who was born Steve Atrib in Manchester, England, in 1953, but adopted Islam in 1984.

"We were against war from the beginning," Sadallah said, explaining how he came to found and head MEAN. "So I left England in October to set up the peace camp in Iraq, but it did not work. Then the only way to extend help was through relief work, and that is what we are trying to do."

Sadallah, an associate of former pop singer Cat Stevens who has embraced Islam and adopted the name Muhammed, left England to join the camp in October 1984. "I had to leave my wife and three-month-old daughter to complete the Karamat project. Their services in the field of civil, mechanical and electrical fields would be valuable," he said. MEAN will put their action expenses

together to help the people of Iraq, where hundreds of thousands of children have been helped," he added, referring to the tens of thousands of orphans left behind in the war in January.

Sadallah, who left Jordan three weeks ago to go to Iraq, left for the camp in memory of his father, who was killed in the war.

Sadallah, an engineer, and his Jordanian wife, who accompanied him to the camp, are separated. "I am not sure that the five engineers left Friday were separated from their wives, who may have to stay for three months or even longer to complete the Karamat project. Their services in the field of civil, mechanical and electrical fields would be valuable," he said.

"We are willing to offer our free services to anyone who wants to send help to the Iraqis," he added.



While the outer structure of the hospital is intact, every room inside has been totally destroyed.



STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeissani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefiach tel: 623891

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

FOR RENT at JAMAL REAL ESTATE

FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED Apartments, villas & semi villas

You'll like our service Just call 835859

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...!

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 660123

P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434

Telex 23898 DAROTEL/JC

Ideal Residence For

Expatriates and

Businessmen

UEFA lifts ban on Liverpool

LONDON (Agencies) — English soccer champions Liverpool will be allowed back into European competition next season after a six-year exile. UEFA's Executive Committee said Friday.

"We decided to allow Liverpool back in UEFA competitions again," UEFA President Lennart Johansson said.

English clubs were banned from Europe in 1985 after 39 people died in rioting at Brussels' Heysel Stadium before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus.

UEFA lifted the ban on other English clubs last year but said Liverpool's exile would continue for a further three seasons.

Johansson told a news conference the UEFA Executive Committee had agreed unanimously to Liverpool's return.

"We never should forget what happened at the Heysel Stadium that night," he said. "But if you analyse it, it was so-called supporters who caused the tragedy. You can ask whether they were Liverpool supporters or just there to do what they did."

He said mistakes had been made by UEFA and by the local

authorities in Belgium at the time and praised Liverpool for taking their punishment in silence.

"They never complained. They asked us for mercy and we gave it. They have suffered enough," Johansson said. "They are back in business."

English Football Association (F.A.) Chairman Bert Millichip welcomed the decision, saying he was very happy, not only for Liverpool but for English football.

Liverpool, the predominant force in English soccer over the last 20 years, won the European Cup four times between 1977 and 1984.

Liverpool are currently second in the English League behind Arsenal and will have to remain in the first two if they want to play in one of the European competitions next season.

UEFA said Thursday that it will permit four former East German clubs to play in the European Cup competitions next season, notwithstanding German reunification and the merger of the two countries' leagues.

If Liverpool retain their title they would win a place in the European Cup, the senior European competition. Second place

would put them in the UEFA Cup.

Friday's decision is a boost to Liverpool's new manager Graeme Souness, who moved to the club from Glasgow Rangers.

Souness is known to be disappointed never to have had any European success with Rangers.

UEFA's Executive Committee also confirmed that in next year's Champions Cup the quarterfinal round will be divided into two groups of four teams, with each team playing the other teams in its group both home and away and the group winners advancing to the final.

Under the current system in the Champions and Cup Winners Cup, all teams are drawn with an opponent which it plays home and away and the winner, determined by aggregate goals, advances to the next round. That is used for the first, second, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, with the final a one-game championship. The UEFA Cup has an additional third round and its championship is conducted in the same manner as the previous rounds.

Zina Garrison

HOUSTON, Texas, (R) — American Gigi Fernandez took advantage of ailing compatriot Zina Garrison to gain her first career upset over the hometown favourite 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 7-5 Thursday in the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Houston.

Fernandez's second-round victory puts her into the quarterfinals with sixth-seeded Sandra Cecchini and unseeded Americans Ann Grossman and Linda Harvey-Wild, who posted straight-set victories.

"I think the difference was the surface," said the 82nd-ranked Fernandez, who had dropped all seven previous career meetings with last year's Wimbledon finalist and 8th-ranked player without even winning a set.

"I played my game. I was more aggressive than she was and on the clay I could get to any of her shots. She is one of the fastest players on the tour, but that was the equalizer," she said.

Fernandez, primarily a doubles specialist, had a 3-6 record this year in singles, but won her first ever clay-court singles match in three sets Tuesday and repeated the success against Garrison.

"It's my first time beating a top 10 player. It's a solid win for me because she's a good player," she said.

"I did not expect him to be that good. What an athlete he is he is very fast," said Yugoslav fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, who like Becker lost one set to Borg in a friendly match Wednesday.

"He is much fitter than most players," said Becker's Romanian manager Ion Tiriac.

The Swede has barely changed since effectively ending his 11-year career after losing to Frenchman Henri Leconte in Monte Carlo in 1983. Borg played one more tournament, in Stuttgart in 1984, but lost again to Leconte.

He still sports the same headband and uses the same near-obsolete racket, a 420-grain wooden-framed model which has become a collector's item.

"I have tried modern ones, they just don't suit me," Borg said recently in one of his rare interviews.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

Fernandez upsets Garrison

in Slims of Houston

HOUSTON, Texas, (R) — American Gigi Fernandez took advantage of ailing compatriot Zina Garrison to gain her first career upset over the hometown favourite 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 7-5 Thursday in the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Houston.

Fernandez's second-round victory puts her into the quarterfinals with sixth-seeded Sandra Cecchini and unseeded Americans Ann Grossman and Linda Harvey-Wild, who posted straight-set victories.

"I think the difference was the surface," said the 82nd-ranked Fernandez, who had dropped all seven previous career meetings with last year's Wimbledon finalist and 8th-ranked player without even winning a set.

"I played my game. I was more aggressive than she was and on the clay I could get to any of her shots. She is one of the fastest players on the tour, but that was the equalizer," she said.

Fernandez, primarily a doubles specialist, had a 3-6 record this year in singles, but won her first ever clay-court singles match in three sets Tuesday and repeated the success against Garrison.

"It's my first time beating a top 10 player. It's a solid win for me because she's a good player," she said.

"I did not expect him to be that good. What an athlete he is he is very fast," said Yugoslav fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, who like Becker lost one set to Borg in a friendly match Wednesday.

"He is much fitter than most players," said Becker's Romanian manager Ion Tiriac.

The Swede has barely changed since effectively ending his 11-year career after losing to Frenchman Henri Leconte in 1983. Borg played one more tournament, in Stuttgart in 1984, but lost again to Leconte.

He still sports the same headband and uses the same near-obsolete racket, a 420-grain wooden-framed model which has become a collector's item.

"I have tried modern ones, they just don't suit me," Borg said recently in one of his rare interviews.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

"Zina got dehydrated tonight," said Dr. James Sterling, tournament physician. "We admitted her to the hospital in order to give her IV fluids. She should be released tomorrow. She just needs fluids. Everything else was fine," Garrison's coach, Sherwood Ste-

phen said.

His style of play has not changed either. The same groundstrokes, the same clockwork regularity, the same ice-cold concentration. Only his pace has slowed down a bit.

But Borg still impresses his opponents.

"If I was drawn against him, I would pull out. I have too much respect for him, I would be distracted," said Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the reigning French Open champion.

Borg, who has vowed to enter the French Open and Wimbledon this year, will have his first real test of the modern game on Monday or Tuesday.

Executives see worker's competence falling

U.S. capital spending rising at slowest pace in five years

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Spending by American businesses to expand production is rising at the slowest pace in five years, the U.S. Commerce Department has estimated.

Analysts say the slow growth is chiefly due to the U.S. recession's pinch on profits and clouded prospects for economic recovery.

A survey of 1991 investment plans conducted between January and March showed companies intended to increase spending by 3.2 per cent after allowing for inflation, the weakest rate of increase since 1986 when spending fell 3.1 per cent.

That follows actual rises in real capital spending of 4.5 per cent in 1990 and 10.4 per cent in 1989.

Without allowing for inflation, spending in 1991 was forecast to

grow by 2.5 per cent to an annual rate of \$546.4 billion. That is nearly unchanged from a survey of investment plans done last October and November when businesses said they would boost 1991 spending by 2.4 per cent.

In the October-November survey, real capital spending was projected to rise only 0.4 per cent in 1991, so the latest 3.2 per cent rise in intentions seem to suggest a significant pickup. But the department revised its estimate for price changes to forecast a decline of 0.7 per cent instead of decreasing it only by 4.7 per cent.

Manufacturers of durable goods that are designed to last three years or more intend to reduce spending in 1991 by 2.5 per cent instead of 0.8 per cent as they indicated in last fall's survey.

Meanwhile, more mid-sized

goods like computers. But Reaser stressed that the relatively unchanged projection for nominal spending, and some large decreases in the manufacturing sector, were more significant.

According to a survey, top executives said that international business is a key factor for them.

The survey queried the 100 members of the American Business Conference (ABC), a Washington-based trade group of mid-sized, growth companies like underwear-maker Fruit of the Loom Inc. and Cable Television's USA Network.

Only 34 per cent of the 70 officials responding to the survey late last year said they believe American workers' competence has improved in the past decade. Forty-one per cent think worker competence has declined.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Sunday, April 14, 1991	
		Central Bank's official rates	
Buy	Sell	Swiss franc	474.2 477.0
U.S. dollar	676.0 680.0	French franc	119.0 119.7
Pound Sterling	1202.2 1209.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	495.9 498.9
Danmarks	401.7 404.1	Dutch guilder	356.6 358.7
		Swedish krona	111.9 112.6
		Italian lira (for 100)	54.2 54.5
		Belgian franc (for 10)	195.6 196.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7415/25	U.S. dollar	1.1540/45
One U.S. dollar	0.5600/05	Canadian dollar	0.7185/95
	0.9360/70	Deutschmarks	1.4588/95
	35.24/28	Dutch guilders	5.7875/75
	12/01/27	Swiss francs	137.85/95
	13/10/60	Belgian francs	6.6780/30
	6.5700/50	French francs	5.5700/50
One ounce of gold	356.35/356.85	Italian lire	356.35/356.85
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish kronas	
		Norwegian kronas	
		Danish kronas	
		U.S. dollars	

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

A four-storey building, located in the most beautiful area in Shmeisani, opposite the Birds Garden, at two streets. The building consists of 8 apartments. For information, pls, call at the building or Tel. 811982

Belgian minister expects Sabena sale after costly facelift

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium would probably sell off its majority stake in the country's loss-making airline Sabena, but the firm first needed a costly facelift. Transport Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene was quoted as saying.

It was like trying to turn an old lady into an attractive bride, he told the Dutch-language weekly Panorama. Sabena's financial situation at the moment was "too rotten to excite possible lovers," he added.

"The state has to invest a lot of money in Sabena once more," he said. "The alternative is to go bankrupt, or to sell the whole thing for peanuts. It'll cost money in any case."

Sabena S.A. posted 6.56 billion franc (\$202 million) loss for 1990. This year it expects an operating loss of 4.25 billion francs (\$130.9 million).

Its new boss, Pierre Godfrroid, has drawn up a major restructuring plan aiming for a 600 million franc (\$18.5 million) operating profit in 1992.

But 2,204 of the airline's 11,800 jobs will go, working hours will be increased and salaries frozen.

The government has agreed to contribute nine billion francs (\$277 million) but the company still needs to find private backing for its recapitalisation.

Dehaene, who is deputy prime minister, was quoted as saying only two or three big airlines would survive in the future European air transport market.

"And Sabena will not be one of them. It's better for Sabena to disappear, it's too expensive a way of keeping our flag in the spotlight," Dehaene added in the interview.

Belgium should retain a blocking minority within a new big umbrella airline to ensure the survival of Brussels' Zaventem airport, he said.

ing plan aiming for a 600 million franc (\$18.5 million) operating profit in 1992.

But 2,204 of the airline's 11,800 jobs will go, working hours will be increased and salaries frozen.

The government has agreed to contribute nine billion francs (\$277 million) but the company still needs to find private backing for its recapitalisation.

Dehaene, who is deputy prime minister, was quoted as saying only two or three big airlines would survive in the future European air transport market.

"And Sabena will not be one of them. It's better for Sabena to disappear, it's too expensive a way of keeping our flag in the spotlight," Dehaene added in the interview.

Belgium should retain a blocking minority within a new big umbrella airline to ensure the survival of Brussels' Zaventem airport, he said.

Frankfurt launches bid to house 'Eurofed'

FRANKFURT (R) — Frankfurt, Germany's top financial centre and one of Europe's key financial markets, has launched a campaign to house a European central bank against rival bids from London, Luxembourg, Paris and Amsterdam.

But city officials said they would adopt a softly-softly approach in a bid to win friends in high European places.

"We want to help people feel good about Frankfurt and prepare the ground so that Frankfurt has the best possible reputation and the best possible chance," city mayor designate, Andreas Von Schoeler — due to take office next month — told news conference.

"Iraq's pre-war export quota of three million b.d. (barrels per day) was not enough for its needs," Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi told the Baghdad weekly Al Afaf.

"Iraq will explain that and will demand and work within the legal framework of OPEC to have a higher oil production quota for Iraq than before the war," he said.

"We want to help people feel good about Frankfurt and prepare the ground so that Frankfurt has the best possible reputation and the best possible chance," city mayor designate, Andreas Von Schoeler — due to take office next month — told news conference.

"Under the slogan, 'Frankfurt, the natural choice,' the city plans to approach decision-makers throughout Europe to canvass support for its claim.

But the German city will face tough competition from other European centres.

In a letter circulated in Brussels last week Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok lobbied in support of Amsterdam.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer says his country has reserved a plot of land for the future European central bank, dubbed the Eurofed in a reference to the U.S. Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank.

But Frankfurt says it can offer the bank the choice of two city centre sites. "We are looking at prime sites in the heart of the Frankfurt banking centre," said Von Schoeler.

Frankfurt officials accept that the rules of the game are vague — the Eurofed's statutes are still on the drawing board and there is no deadline for choosing a site — but they want to ensure Frankfurt heads the list of candidates.

The Eurofed would manage a single European currency and control the 12-nation bloc's monetary policy in a future economic and monetary union.

Iraq to demand higher OPEC production quota

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq plans to press OPEC to increase its crude oil production quota.

"Iraq's pre-war export quota of

three million b.d. (barrels per day)

was not enough for its needs,"

Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi told the Baghdad weekly Al Afaf.

"Iraq will explain that and will

demand and work within the legal

framework of OPEC to have a

higher oil production quota for

Iraq than before the war," he said.

"We want to help people feel

good about Frankfurt and prepare

the ground so that Frankfurt has

the best possible reputation and

the best possible chance," city

mayor designate, Andreas Von

Schoeler — due to take office

next month — told news conference.

"Under the slogan, 'Frankfurt,

the natural choice,' the city

plans to approach decision-

makers throughout Europe to can-

vass support for its claim.

But the German city will face

tough competition from other

European centres.

In a letter circulated in Brussels last week Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok lobbied in support of Amsterdam.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer says his country has reserved a plot of land for the future European central bank, dubbed the Eurofed in a reference to the U.S. Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank.

But Frankfurt says it can offer

the bank the choice of two city

centre sites. "We are looking at

prime sites in the heart of the

Frankfurt banking centre," said

Von Schoeler.

Frankfurt officials accept that

the rules of the game are vague —

the Eurofed's statutes are still

on the drawing board and there is

no deadline for choosing a site —

but they want to ensure Frankfurt

heads the list of candidates.

"And Sabena will not be one of

them. It's better for Sabena to

disappear, it's too expensive a

way of keeping our flag in the

spotlight," Dehaene added in the

interview.

Belgium should retain a block-

ing minority within a new big

umbrella airline to ensure the

survival of Brussels' Zaventem

airport, he said.

payments and civilians needs.

Iraq asked the U.N. Security

Council Tuesday for permission

to sell nearly a billion dollars

worth of oil on the open market

to buy food.

The Iraqi request to sell oil to

essential imports covering a

four month period implies ex-

ports of 400,000 to 800,000 b.d.

Iraq and Western oil industry

sources have said.

"They'll need to sell around

600,000 b.d.," one U.S.-based ex-

Gorbachev to seek union treaty with only 9 of 15 republics

TOKYO (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Friday that he is giving up on six independence-minded republics at least temporarily and will try to work out a new union treaty with just nine of the 15 republics.

"We shall have the treaty signed by those who are prepared to do so," Gorbachev told a press conference after his summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

In an attempt to get the basic unifying document of his country rewritten before the nation falls apart, Gorbachev said only the nine republics that participated in a recent referendum on preserving the union would be represented at a conference Tuesday to hammer out the last details of the treaty.

Gorbachev gave no indication that he was changing his longstanding insistence that the six independence-minded republics follow a nearly impossible secession law in order to separate from the Soviet Union.

But his announcement did indicate that he would now seek common ground to salvage his country among the nine republics that wish to remain united, and no longer delay the union treaty negotiations trying vainly to satisfy the secessionists.

"The immediate task is saving the state," he said.

Six independence-minded public parliaments refused to conduct the referendum on March 17. They are Moldavia, the southern republics of Georgia and Armenia, and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The other nine republics voted

overwhelmingly to keep the Soviet Union whole. They constitute more than 90 per cent of the population and territory of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev hopes the new union treaty, which transfers considerable powers from the central government to the republics, will soon issue conflicting orders that have left no one with the power to govern.

The Soviet president said one person had suggested that the republic leaders be locked into a room and not allowed to leave until they reach a decision. Gorbachev, who said earlier in the week that his country is in danger of falling into "the chaos that gives birth to dictatorship," also warned that he may take severe action to keep order.

The Soviet people want reform and a market economy, but they also want "law and order and firm action. You must not confuse firm action and dictatorship."

If the law cannot be applied, that is anarchy," he said.

Meanwhile strikes in the Republic of Georgia in support of independence from the Soviet Union spread to Moscow-controlled enterprises Wednesday, the Georgian news agency Iveria reported.

The blockades aggravated the isolation of the neighbouring republic of Armenia, already partly cut off from the rest of the Soviet Union by the third Caucasian republic, Azerbaijan, which has been preventing the passage of freight trains.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are in dispute over the Armenian dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, ruled by Azerbaijan.

Armenia's Armpress news agency said all freight through and from Georgia was being blocked, but that some trains had gone through from Azerbaijan Monday for the first time in a week.

In a further indication of tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the daily *Izvestia* alleged that the murder last week of a Soviet colonel in Rostov-On-Don

had been the work of Separatist Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The colonel, Vladimir Blakhotin, was deputy chief of the Interior Ministry troops in the Caucasus region.

The Interfax News Agency cited the Azerbaijan Interior Ministry as saying two Azers had been killed Wednesday in an attack coming from Nagorno-Karabakh. In addition, it said unidentified gunmen had killed the driver and passenger of a car in the enclave.

The parliament of Lithuania, one of the Baltic republics which, like Georgia, seek independence from the Soviet Union, decided Wednesday to grant citizenship to anyone resident in the republic on June 15 this year.

Anti-independence campaigners had accused the nationalist government of discriminating against the Russian minority by preparing laws that would make them second class citizens.

The amendment passed by the Lithuanian parliament banned dual nationality, meaning that ethnic Russians and Poles living in the republic would have to give up Soviet citizenship to get a Lithuanian passport.

TASS later reported that the parliament of Armenia, which also seeks independence, but is less militant than Georgia, had voted to nationalise the property of the republic's Communist Party and its youth wing.

The parliamentary resolution said the Communists, who held power in Armenia until they were ousted in free elections last year, had used their power to amass huge material resources at the expense of the state.

7 killed, 8 hurt in Greece bomb blast

PATRAS, Greece (AP) — An explosion ripped through the offices of a courier firm Friday killing seven people and injuring at least eight, one seriously.

The stops, coupled with further disturbances in the southern republics, underlined problems facing Gorbachev in his bid to dampen separatism in all corners of the country while tackling an economic crisis.

The Georgian plants that went on strike included electrical and computer plants and a locomotive factory.

The southern republic last week formally declared inde-

START talks resume in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — U.S.-Soviet talks on a treaty cutting long-range nuclear arsenals resumed Friday after a monthlong break, with no indication of when the largely completed draft agreement would be ready for signing.

Outgoing chief U.S. negotiator Richard Burt, testifying Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged both sides to make concessions and wrap up the treaty soon.

He said a Soviet commitment should be "locked in" because relations with Moscow could be moving into a "more ambiguous, uncertain state." He cited rising influence by Soviet generals over arms control.

Differences remain over the draft strategic arms reduction treaty's (START) ambitious provisions for monitoring compliance.

But the Bush administration also has said START cannot be

completed before the U.S.-Soviet stand-off over a treaty slashing conventional forces in Europe (CFE) is ended.

Negotiators at the conventional forces talks in Vienna expressed optimism Thursday that the Soviets will make a satisfactory offer by mid-May that would allow implementation of the treaty. All NATO and Warsaw Pact countries signed the accord in Paris last November.

The White House has made resolving the dispute a prerequisite for a new summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

START was supposed to be signed at the next summit, but Bush seemed to suggest this week that he could meet Gorbachev even if the treaty is not ready.

However, Bush's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, later said that signing START remains a summit

goal, evidently to dispel any notion that the treaty is not an administration priority.

Burt told the Senate that START will cut American and Soviet long-range nuclear forces, such as intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), by an average 30-35 per cent. An early goal of a 50 per cent overall cut will not be met, he said.

He called the remaining obstacles "second-order technical problems."

Under provisions already agreed, the Soviets would have to cut the number of nuclear warheads on ICBMs by 40 per cent and halve its arsenal of especially destructive "heavy" missiles, Burt said earlier.

Open issues include how to supervise production of mobile missiles and monitor their tests, and a dispute over the encoding of data generated during missile tests.

Police said the powerful explosion which occurred at 10:50 a.m. (0750 GMT), also damaged cars parked outside the ACS offices and that at least eight people, one seriously, were injured.

Police said at first they were uncertain who was killed and injured in the ACS offices or outside on the sidewalk, due to the confusion that ensued at the scene.

However, Simeon Vosopoulos, an ACS official in Athens, 180 kilometres from Patras, said he had an unconfirmed report that four of the dead were ACS employees who were attending to clients in the office at the time.

A Patras hospital official said that six of the dead, all Greeks, had been identified while the seventh, "was so badly mangled by the blast that we have not been able to identify the body yet."

A fire official who asked for anonymity said it was believed that a bomb in one of the packages in the ACS office was the cause of the explosion.

Later, police said that an anti-terrorist squad has left Athens to come here to investigate the explosion.

The prosecutor had asked for an eight-year-term, but conceded after hearing psychiatrists' testimony that Rust had diminished him to a criminal.

This provoked strong criticism from Ershad's Jatiya Party, which won 35 of the 300 seats in the Feb. 27 parliamentary elections, five of them won by Ershad himself.

Ershad goes to jail

DHAKA (R) — Former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who boasted that Bangladesh under his rule was a "one-man show," spent his first day in Dhaka's maximum security jail Friday.

"He walked, rested on his bed and at times sank into deep thought," said one prison official.

Ershad was shifted to the jail under heavy security Thursday night from a villa in the Gulshan diplomatic area where he was being held on charges of corruption and misuse of power.

The retired army general resigned last December in the face of a violent opposition campaign that belied his repeated assertions that he was the supreme ruler no one could challenge.

"Bangladesh under me is a one-man show," he once told foreign journalists.

"He has been put in a double-protected area with facilities permissible for a VIP prisoner," one prison official said.

"But this is a world apart. His (Ershad's) eyes will no longer stretch beyond the high walls nor will be hear voices other than hundreds of criminals housed

around," said the official who declined to be named.

In his prison cell, Ershad will be deprived of the company of his seven-year-old son, Shaad, whom he took on almost all official trips abroad during his nearly nine years of rule.

The boy continues to live with his mother, Roushan Ara, who is also detained at the villa at Gulshan.

Guards at the villa told reporters Ershad kissed and hugged his wife and son and wept before being taken away. "They were all swept by human emotions," one said.

Bangladesh's new prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, promised in parliament last week that Ershad would be moved to jail.

She gave the assurance after opposition leader Sheikh Hasina criticised the government for housing the 61-year-old general for more than a week to set May 21.

State-run television and national news agencies said Friday that Punjab and Assam, both under direct rule with security forces battling separatist insurrections, would elect both parliamentary representatives and their own state governments during India's May 20, 23 and 26 general elections.

The agency reports said army operations had been called off in Assam, an important oil and tea producing state, to ease the atmosphere for campaigning.

The duty officer at the army control room said: "I am also reading this in the newspapers, but we are not aware of being asked to report back to barracks."

State-run television said Punjab would vote on May 20 and Assam on May 23.

But sources at the office of India's governor in Assam, Loknath Misra, said the country's election commission had told them not to announce polling dates yet because these were still under discussion.

"Until now, we have been told by the Election Commission that the date for both the Lok Sabha (parliament) and state assembly election will be May 23, but it could be changed to May 31 and June 3," one source said.

Japan satellite explodes

TOKYO (R) — Japan's satellite broadcasters may be wondering what the heavens have against them after their latest launch ended in fiery disaster.

Controllers at the launch site at Cape Canaveral, Florida, blew up the \$35-million Japanese television satellite after the rocket malfunctioned minutes after lift-off Thursday night.

The satellite was a replacement for one destroyed in the explosion of a French Ariane rocket in February 1990 and its loss could force one of three satellite channels off the air as early as next month.

Japan's satellite broadcasters immediately began bickering over which one would suspend operations and suffer the financial consequences.

But there was little they could do to lessen the damage to the

image of satellite broadcasting, a medium Japan has pursued aggressively and endorsed exclusively for high-definition television (HDTV).

The average viewer is going to wonder what the heck is going on. But satellite broadcasting is pioneering technology, and problems are to be expected," said Kotaro Wakui, director of the Electronic Media Division at Denton Inc., Japan's biggest advertising agency.

Soon after the explosion, triggered after controllers noticed the General Dynamics Atlas rocket had malfunctioned, representatives of Japan's two satellite broadcasters began jockeying with government authorities to ensure their services, for which viewers pay monthly fees, are not disrupted.

By the Election Commission that the date for both the Lok Sabha (parliament) and state assembly election will be May 23, but it could be changed to May 31 and June 3," one source said.

The delegation arrived in a U.S. C-135 aircraft. Middle-level Hanoi Foreign Ministry officials

do less to lessen the damage to the

image of satellite broadcasting, a medium Japan has pursued aggressively and endorsed exclusively for high-definition television (HDTV).

The average viewer is going to wonder what the heck is going on. But satellite broadcasting is pioneering technology, and problems are to be expected," said Kotaro Wakui, director of the Electronic Media Division at Denton Inc., Japan's biggest advertising agency.

Soon after the explosion, triggered after controllers noticed the General Dynamics Atlas rocket had malfunctioned, representatives of Japan's two satellite broadcasters began jockeying with government authorities to ensure their services, for which viewers pay monthly fees, are not disrupted.

The delegation arrived in a U.S. C-135 aircraft. Middle-level Hanoi Foreign Ministry officials

Philippine military leader's brother takes over air force

MANILA (Agencies) — The new air force chief Friday said the Gulf war demonstrated that air power is key to national defence.

Speaking at a change-of-command ceremony, Brig-Gen. Loven Abadia said his main concern would be to modernise the country's armed forces, one of the weakest in the region.

Abadia said the Gulf war "invariably demonstrated that no nation can claim a credible defence posture even if it has the most well-trained ground forces if it does not have a strong air force to depend on."

"A credible air defence capability remains one of the key tools in the assertion or projection of national sovereignty," Abadia said.

Abadia said he will seek more funds from congress for the modernisation plan, which should help the nation's economic development and the local aerospace industry. He did not spell out our details of the plan.

The Philippine Armed Forces are virtually dependent on U.S. support for equipment and funds obtained from Washington's rental for the use of its six military bases here.

Most of the air and naval fleet are second-hand U.S. planes and vessels acquired through donations or aid. Even senior officers joke that their fighter aircraft are older than the pilots.

President Corazon Aquino Thursday named Abadia as air force commander two weeks after making the controversial appointment of his younger brother, Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, as the new military chief of staff.

Abadia said his "primordial concern" was to uphold constitutional democracy.

"History has shown that once a nation's military force meddles into the political arena, it is bound to encumber and overreach itself into the other affairs of the state. In the process the armed forces ends up ... killing the very way of life it has initially sworn to defend and protect," Abadia said.

Mrs. Aquino has survived at



Gen. Alexander Aguirre

the third ranking post in the military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The new air force chief said he and his brother were "humbled and overwhelmed by the courage and the wisdom" of Mrs. Aquino in making the appointments.

The issue of promotions is sensitive because favouritism in the military under the late President Ferdinand Marcos helped lead to his downfall and the rise of Mrs. Aquino in a 1986 popular revolt.

Most of the air and naval fleet are second-hand U.S. planes and vessels acquired through donations or aid. Even senior officers joke that their fighter aircraft are older than the pilots.

Abadia said he will seek more funds from congress for the modernisation plan, which should help the nation's economic development and the local aerospace industry. He did not spell out our details of the plan.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine military.

The appointment marks the first time a brother team has been named to hold the highest levels of command in the Philippine